

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

September 16, 1983

VOTE TO DEFEAT H.R. 2755

Dear Republican Colleague:

On Monday, September 19, when H.R. 2755, a bill to reauthorize the FCC and provide increased authorizations for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, is considered under Suspension, we urge you to join us in voting against the bill. We think that it is inappropriate for the House to consider this highly controversial measure under the Suspension Calendar because it precludes the offering of perfecting amendments.

H.R. 2755 authorizes massive increases in Federal funding for public broadcasting. In fact, over the next three years, the bill authorizes \$70 million in supplemental spending. This new funding would allow increases in Federal appropriations for each of the next three years that average 18% per year above the amounts that Congress has already authorized for these years.

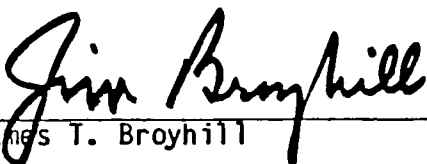
While we support a strong public broadcasting system, we think it is inappropriate at this time to provide the massive supplemental funding that is provided in this bill. Numerous commercial broadcasting enterprises have reduced their budgets during the last year due to poor economic conditions. Yet this bill would completely insulate public broadcasters from any belt tightening.

Furthermore, we think it is particularly ill advised at this time to grant significant supplemental spending authority to public broadcasting for each of the next three years because the proposed supplemental authorization comes at the very time that evidence has been uncovered demonstrating clearly that National Public Radio, a major recipient of Federal public broadcasting money, has been grossly mismanaged. New examples of mismanagement at National Public Radio are being uncovered nearly every day. We are disturbed at the prospect of greatly increasing Federal authorization levels at the same time that we are learning about serious financial abuses at National Public Radio.

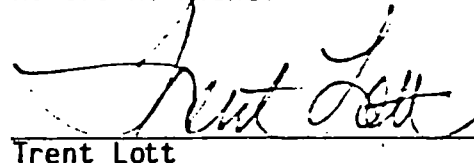
We believe the House should have an opportunity to consider a variety of amendments, including amendments to cut the amount of supplemental funding and amendments designed to reduce the risk that Federal taxpayer money will be squandered through future mismanagement of public broadcasting enterprises of the sort we have witnessed at National Public Radio.

Unfortunately, consideration of this measure under Suspension of the Rules precludes Members from offering constructive amendments to the bill. Therefore, we urge you to join us and other supporters of public broadcasting by voting "NO" on H.R. 2755 when the bill is considered under Suspension of the Rules so that the bill can be rescheduled for consideration in a manner that allows perfecting amendments to be offered.

Sincerely,


James T. Broyhill


Robert H. Michel


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Honorable

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear

On Monday, September 19, when H.R. 2755, a bill to reauthorize the FCC and provide increased authorizations for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, is brought up under Suspension, I urge you to join me in voting against the bill. I think that it is inappropriate for the House to consider this highly controversial measure under the Suspension Calendar because it precludes the offering of perfecting amendments.

As you recall, last Congress when the House considered an authorization for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, you voted in support of the Collins amendment to reduce funding for the Corporation. H.R. 2755 would compound the mistake made when the House defeated the Collins amendment by further increasing the funding already available to the Corporation. I hope after reading the attached fact sheet you will join me in defeating H.R. 2755 in order that Members might be able to offer perfecting amendments.

Sincerely,

James T. Broyhill
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Attachment

FACT SHEET ON H.R. 2755 - CPB ADDITIONAL FUNDING

REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE TO DEFEAT H.R. 2755 UNDER SUSPENSION

- ° H.R. 2755 authorizes massive supplemental funding for public broadcasting for each of the next three fiscal years (1984-86). The bill authorizes expenditures for public broadcasting that exceed the President's budget request by 59% for the three years combined. In 1986, the bill would authorize Federal spending for public broadcasting more than 100 percent above the President's budget proposal.
- ° In 1981, when the House last considered public broadcasting authorizations, you supported an amendment to reduce Federal funding for public broadcasting for the same three years involved here, as follows:

Authorization Levels in Amendment You Supported

\$110 million - FY 1984
\$100 million - FY 1985
\$100 million - FY 1986

Because you supported substantial budget cuts for these three years, you should have little trouble in voting "NO" on a bill that significantly increases public broadcasting funding for the same years, resulting in the following authorization levels:

Amount of Increase Proposed in Bill

\$145 million - FY 1984
\$153 million - FY 1985
\$162 million - FY 1986

- ° Granting significant supplemental spending authority to public broadcasting for each of the next three years is particularly ill-advised at this time because evidence has been uncovered demonstrating clearly that National Public Radio, a major recipient of Federal public broadcasting money, has been grossly mismanaged. We should not be increasing Federal authorization levels at the same time that we are learning about serious financial abuses at National Public Radio.
- ° The House should have an opportunity to consider a variety of amendments, including amendments to cut the amount of supplemental funding and amendments designed to reduce the risk that Federal tax money will be squandered through future mismanagement of public broadcasting enterprises of the sort we have witnessed at National Public Radio.